

"Mystery" Tunnels Digger Burrows New Double Maze

**More Elaborate Subterranean Labyrinth Opens from
Cellar of Scientist's Home, Ending in
Square Well 24 Feet Deep.**

Born of the same "hobby" that caused Harrison G. Dyar, entomologist of the Smithsonian Institution to dig for ten years constructing a maze of underground passageways in the rear of Pelham courts, another series of tunnels has been dug under the ground between his residence, 804 B street southwest, and St. Marks' Evangelical Lutheran church.

The new tunnels, three in number, were discovered by a Post reporter Friday night and inspected again yesterday. Only one has been completed, but work on the others is progressing rapidly, and, if Mr. Dyar continues to indulge in his fanciful pastime, the B street maze soon will represent more of an achievement in underground burrowing than the mysterious Pelham courts labyrinth, which the scientist constructed between 1905 and 1915, and which, when uncovered several days ago, created a sensation.

The B street tunnels, like the Pelham courts tunnel, are entire-

ly within the bounds of Mr. Dyar's property. They are being built, he explained, simply as a means of affording him exercise and diversion from his daily scientific grind. Mr. Dyar is an internationally known authority on mosquitoes. He also specializes in butterflies and moths.

After he had completed the Pelham courts tunnel Mr. Dyar did no digging for five years. He began work on his new labyrinth in 1920 and has dug, off and on, in the evenings and mostly in the winter months in the last 4 1/2 years. His scientific work, he explained, frequently takes him to the field in the summer months in quest of entomological specimens and as a result work on his tunnels lag in the summer.

The B street tunnels are connected with Mr. Dyar's house. Entrance to the two principal passageways is from the basement of the house. The third tunnel, the one which now is engaging most of the scientist's attention, is entered

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through a wooden door under the back porch. The tunnel which is now being dug will connect with the second tunnel, which is perhaps 15 feet below the surface.

Mr. Dyar, with an electric flashlight, accompanied the reporter on the two inspections, pointing out places of interest in the passageways and giving measurements.

The entrance to the "first level," as Mr. Dyar calls his first subterranean passage, was made through a small gothic-shaped door in the southeast corner of the basement. A Latin inscription, "Facilis descensus avari," graced the arch over the door. It means the descent is easy to the lower regions.

Descent Is Easy.

The descent was truly easy, Mr. Dyar having constructed perfect concrete steps. From the first landing the tunnel ran straight toward B street for the length of the house. The floor of the "first level" is of hardpacked clay, the walls concrete and the ceiling brick.

As he traversed the 20-foot passageway, Mr. Dyar explained that unlike other tunnels he has built this "first level" really served an utilitarian purpose.

"We use this tunnel in the winter to carry ashes from the furnace in the basement to the front of the house," he said.

At the end of the passage there is an iron door through which ashes are passed to the garden walkway which runs parallel to the house.

"Now there is a drop here of 24 feet," the tunnel maker warned when the end of the passage had been reached. He played the rays from his flashlight into a square well. There was a ladder made of iron pipes set in concrete. There was water in the well.

"Yes, I struck water 24 feet down," he said.

"How deep is the water?"

"Only a few feet," he replied.

Mr. Dyar then conducted the reporter back to the concrete steps at the starting point. The electric flash revealed another flight of six steps.

Another Tunnel Beneath.

"This leads to the second level," the entomologist said with pride.

The "second level" was much like the first, but it has not been completed. Mr. Dyar has burrowed perhaps 15 feet on the "second level," which when completed will run into the 24-foot well at the end of the "first level." This level is ventilated by an opening in the floor of the "first level."

Work on a "third level" has been begun and will be completed, Mr. Dyar explained, probably after he has concluded work on the tunnel under the back porch.

The explorer and his guide retraced their steps to the basement. Mr. Dyar led the way to the third tunnel, which begins under the back porch.

This opening is more of a shaft than a passageway. The descent was made by thirteen concrete steps, which have been built almost perpendicularly. The walls near the bottom were boarded, ready for an application of concrete.

Still Digging in Sand.

"You see I am still digging in sand here," Mr. Dyar said, sifting the fine dirt through his fingers. "When I get a few more feet down I'll strike gravel. Then I will tun-

nel in, connecting this one with the 'second level' we just saw."

After the inspection Friday night, Mr. Dyar pledged the reporter to secrecy, but yesterday he released the promise.

The only remaining mystery in connection with the B street and Pelham courts labyrinths was what Mr. Dyar did with the dirt from the excavations. He readily explained this yesterday.

"The dirt from the tunnels in the rear of my house on Twenty-first street I dumped on the vacant lot where Pelham Courts now stand," he said. "I owned the lot at the time. The dirt from these tunnels is piled in a mound in my back yard here."

Mr. Dyar said he attributed his good health to digging tunnels. He surveyed his large backyard with considerable satisfaction. It was suggested that he owns sufficient space to dig tunnels on his own property for the remainder of his life.

And being a man of a few words, the scientist only smiled and said: "Yes."